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Mr. P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu :—" Will the Government at least now consider the advisability of including this village under the Tiruvallur police sub-station, considering the fact that it is nearer to Tiruvallur than to Pennalur Pettai ? "

The hon. Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur :— " I want notice, Sir."

Military

Notification regarding messing allowance to military officers.

* 765 Q.—Mr. G. Harisarvottama Rao : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state with reference to the notification in the Army department at pages 1414–1419 of the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 25th September 1928, whether the messing allowance of 10 annas per month mentioned on page 1418 in Schedule III—Provincial Units, for junior officers, non-commissioned officers and men is correct or whether there is any error in the republication of the notification?

A.—There is no error in the republication of the notification.

Pensions

Payment of pensions to pensioners in Trichinopoly district.

* 766 Q.—Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar : Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that till August 1928 the pensioners in the Trichinopoly district were paid their pensions on the 1st or 2nd of every month ;

(*b*) whether the Collector of the district has issued an order to commence payment of pensions only from the 4th of every month ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that a similar trouble arose regarding the payment of pensions to the pensioners in that district in 1924, and whether the Government then passed an order cancelling the then Collector's order ; and

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to pass a similar order at present also and, if not, why ?

A.—(*a*) & (*b*) The Government are not aware whether the facts are as suggested. A report has been called for.

(*c*) & (*d*) A representation was made to the Government in November 1923 in connexion with the dates of payment of pension in the Trichinopoly sub-treasury. After obtaining a report on the subject, the Government passed orders allowing the Collector to use his discretion in the matter.

Mr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva :—" With reference to the answer to clause (*c*), will the Government be pleased to cancel the orders allowing the Collector to use his discretion in the matter of payment of pensions, having regard to the fact that the pensioners are old ? "

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir :—" The Government do not propose to withdraw discretion vested in an officer unless it can be shown that he has abused it."

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Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased to place the copy of the report when it is received on the table of this House?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir:—"I can give the information now. There is a division of pensioners and those pensioners who are drawing Rs. 10 or less, must be paid on the 2nd or the 3rd working day, and those getting above Rs. 10 on the 4th and 5th working days."

Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar:—"May I know the reason why this is being done?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir:—"In order to avoid congestion in the treasury; when all pensioners come on the same day, many have to go away without having to draw their pension. As it was thought to be a convenient arrangement, this procedure was adopted."

Mr. M. V. Gangadhara Siva:—"May I know whether the Government will be pleased at least to direct that the pensioners are paid on the 2nd or 3rd of the month?"

The hon. Mr. T. E. Moir:—"I am afraid, it is impossible. As the staff is limited, and the work is heavy if the work is not divided, it simply means that pensioners will come and have to go away without getting their pension. If the work is spread over four or five days, some pensioners will be paid on the earlier days and others subsequently."

Railways

Alleged inconveniences of third-class lady passengers in Bengal and Nagpore and other railways.

*767-A Q.—Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received complaints about the difficulty and inconvenience experienced by the lady passengers specially in third-class in the Bengal and Nagpur Railway, Madras and Southern Mahratta and South Indian Railway Companies in purchasing tickets along with men;

(b) whether it is a fact that ladies in many cases are being cheated by others as they are not themselves able to purchase tickets;

(c) whether it is a fact that tickets are sold just a few minutes before the arrival of the train both for men and women at the same place and generally by one clerk; and

(d) whether the Government have taken any action in the matter by addressing the Railway Board?

A.—The Government have not received any complaints of the kind referred to. The matter is one which the hon. Member might bring to the notice of the Local Advisory Committees of the Railways concerned.